

SHERYL BURNS BIO FOR THE BC NDP CONVENTION 2023

Sheryl Burns has been a tireless activist for disability rights throughout her life, relying on her lived experience as a woman with a hearing disability to inform her disability analysis. Her disability rights activism includes work in the labour movement, the community at large and internationally. She is one of four General Vice-Presidents for the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) BC and President of CUPE Local 1936. As a union representative, Sheryl has successfully advocated for members right to accommodation on the basis of disability

Sheryl is the current Accessible Workers Representative on the BC Federation of Labour Executive Council, representing union members in this role for the past 10 years. In this capacity, Sheryl has campaigned for a Basic Income for British Columbian's with disabilities, meaningful increases to Persons with Disabilities Income Assistance, accessibility audits at union events, the provision of closed captioning, ASL interpretation and other forms of accommodation at these events. She has presented on the legal *Duty to Accommodate* in multiple venues and created and co-facilitates a workshop entitled *Women, Work and Ability* on behalf of the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour Prairie School for Union Women.

As an appointee to the Provincial Accessibility Committee and the Provincial Employment Accessibility Technical Standards Committee, she, along with other committee members, is tasked with the development of technical standards to increase accessibility in employment for people who live with disabilities and implementation of the *Accessible BC Act*.

Sheryl is a former member of the City of Vancouver Advisory Committee on Disability Issues and a former board member of the Disability Alliance BC.

Internationally, Sheryl has represented CUPE National at meetings of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women and at a historic meeting of the International Labour Organization called *Expert Meeting on Trade Union Actions to Promote Decent Work for Persons with Disabilities*.